

GLEANINGS ABOUT GRANDPA AND GRANDMA STIRLING

by Charlene Stirling Knell

Dear Family:

Whether you are a limb, branch, twig, or leaf on the Stirling Family tree, I hope you are interested in the man and woman I call the trunk of this great tree, my Grandfather and Grandmother William and Sarah Ann Leany Stirling. I never saw them, some few of you I know remember seeing Grandpa; none remember Grandma. I would love to have known these great pioneers, and over the years I have gathered bits of information about them. Perhaps some things you don't know. I would like to share with you what I have learned.

Any tree has "roots." William's began in Forfar, Forfar(now Angus), Scotland on 31 August 1841. The Pedigree Chart shows what we know of his roots. I wish we knew something of the life of the Stirling's in Forfar. Perhaps they were connected with fishing or whaling, perhaps weaving. Many of the people had looms in their homes. It would be interesting to know what they did. Forfar, Angus County is in the Scottish Highlands a few miles from the East coast. According to The Illustrated Guide to Britain, "the heartland of Angus is the fertile vale of Strathmore, Angus. Dividing the towering eastern Grampian mountains from the gentler Sidlaw Hills which lead down to the Firth (a narrow Inlet or arm of the sea; estuary of Tay.) Steep-sided glens cut their way through the northern hills. The vale is a land of fine farms and a famous championship breed of beef cattle, the Black Aberdeen Angus. The vale can be seen at its best from the battlements of Glamis Castle, the ancestral home of the Queen Mother's (Mother of Queen Elizabeth II) family."

The accompanying map shows Angus County in relation to the surrounding area and some of the towns and cities where our ancestors lived. From the Illustrated Guide to Britain I got this information about some of the towns.

"Forfar is the county town of Angus. Malcolm III is said to have held Parliament here in 1057 at which he bestowed surnames and titles on Scottish noblemen. His castle was destroyed by Robert the Bruce, but the site is marked by a 17th Century Octagonal turret once the town cross."

"Dundee is the fourth largest city in Scotland. It is a seaport on the Firth of Tay, notable for its jute industry. This originated as a by product of the whaling industry for which Dundee seamen were renowned in the 18th Century. The soil of the area around Dundee is particularly good for fruit growing. The town also has a thriving jam industry."

"Glamis is a picturesque village famous as the site of Glamis Castle, the ancestral home of the Earl of Strathmore, father of the Queen Mother. The 14th Century castle was rebuilt mainly in the late 17th Century in French-Chateau style. The Queen Mother spent her childhood at Glamis, and Princess Margaret was born there in 1930. From the battlements of the castle are lovely views of the Vale of Strathmore."

"Kirriemuir, an attractive small town called "Thrums" in the novels of James M. Barrie. He was born here May 9, 1860." This was about the time Grandpa Stirling left Scotland for America. Barrie's novels and stories tell about the quite small village of Kirriemuir, and the tears and laughter of its simple hard working people. The Little Minister and Sentimental Tommy are two of such books.

"Arbroath is a resort and fishing port which is the home of the famous "smokies"--haddock flavored and browned by smoke from an Oak Fire."

This part of Scotland is very near the area that Sir Walter Scott describes in The Lady of the Lake. You can also see by the map that it isn't very far from the county and city of Stirling in the Lowlands. We have no knowledge of our ancestors being in that location, but it does seem likely if we go back far enough that there would be a connection of some kind. I remember of thinking when we read Lady of the Lake in high

school and it told about Stirling Castle, "Maybe some of my ancestors lived there." Since, I have learned that Stirling Castle was a home of Scottish Kings. It is an imposing castle standing on a sheer 250 foot crag. It overlooks the Forth Valley and was a Scottish royal palace until 1603 when James VI became King of England. Who knows, if we get with our research we might find a king of some kind!

The climate in Scotland is cold. The average temperature In Dundee during July is 59°F. The Illustrated Guide to Britain says this, "Poverty and the careful husbandry of meager resources in a rigorous climate have done much to shape the Scottish character." This much about Scotland gives us some idea of the country Grandpa came from. Now on with what I have gathered about Grandpa Stirling.

William Stirling was the second child of Thomas Stirling and Elizabeth Bell Stirling. His brothers and sisters were: Ann, born In 1839; Mary, born In 1843, died at age 3; Jessie, born in 1845; James born 2 November 1848, died at age 7; Mary Ann, born 1 July 1851, was near 11 years old when she died; Grace, born 21 September 1853; and Hannah Ruthedge, born 12 October 1855.

Grandpa's sister, Jessie, when she was 79 years old and living in Woods Cross, Utah, talked to some of her family members about her early life. She said this, "We heard and accepted the gospel in Scotland. Previous to that we were Presbyterians, but as soon as my father, Thomas Stirling, heard Mormonism he was convinced and was baptized. The rest of the family all accepted the Gospel after that. I think we first heard the gospel through a man by the name of Gilles who lived in Dundee." In the Leeds ward records of the church, page 9, is recorded that William Stirling was baptized in 1860. Our record shows 1859, by John Gillis. To go on with Jessie's story: "He came over to Forfarshire with two missionaries and they held meetings there. My father, after he joined the church, was president of the branch in Forfarshire. In this branch at that time were Sisters Ramsey and Young, two old ladies, our own family and one or two others. We used to hold our meetings In our house."

"My father was a very religious man. I remember that he used to read the Bible to us every night. We were all religious." From this I would judge that they were ready for the gospel and as soon as they heard it they were ready for baptism. My father told me that Grandpa had told him that sometimes they walked 20 miles to church.

We don't have an exact date when Grandpa was baptized. The record we have always used is just the year 1859. The Leeds ward record that I mentioned before says 1860. I guess they just a lesson to us to make record of things as they happen.

He and his sister, Jessie, came to America on the "William Tapscott" on May 14, 1862. Whether this is the date they sailed from Liverpool, or the date they arrived In New York, I don't know. According to Jessie, Grandpa's sister, it took them six weeks and two days to cross the ocean. There were 800 people on the vessel. All were members of the church except the crew. She said she emigrated with others from her part of the country. She also said when they were crossing the plains, at night after they had eaten they would clear off the brush, the boys would get out their fiddles and they would dance and sing Scotch songs. So the company was probably made up of mostly Scottish saints. Elders Ben E. Rich and Francis M. Lyman were in charge of the company. She tells of one storm at sea that was terrible. "Brother Rich and Brother Lyman walked up and down the deck, one on each side of the ship, talking to us and telling us that we would be alright. In the morning the storm had broken up and it was the most beautiful day I ever saw and we all went up on deck, and we held a meeting." The captain told them they had been blown back a great distance and that if it had not been a Mormon vessel, it would have surely gone to the bottom. He said he was sure it was the faith of the people that the ship was saved.

They landed at Castle Garden, New York. From there they traveled by cattle car to St. Joseph, Missouri, that taking them nine days and nine nights. Then they went by boat from St. Joseph to Council Bluff, that taking two days and two nights.

We know that Grandpa drove a team and wagon of belongings across the plains for Frederick Ursenbach. Aunt Ruth said, "It was at Omaha that he met him. Grandpa had never seen an ox team before, but he offered to take the job." In April 1947, my father, David Stirling, received a letter from O. F.

Ursenbach, who was a patriarch living in Los Angeles, California. Here is part of the letter: "Dear Brother Stirling: In the year 1910, I was with other traveling salesmen registered at your place then doing a hotel business. During the evening your aged father was looking over the guest register on the counter, then seeming to startle asked: 'Is a Mr. Ursenbach here?' To which I answered affirmatively. Then he asked: 'Was your father's name Octave Ursenbach, and was your grandfather Frederick Ursenbach?' To which I gave an affirmative reply. Then the old veteran pioneer placed his arm around my neck and with emotion and with dimmed eyes seemed to live old memories, said he: 'When your grandfather was crossing the plains, he took a liking to me a young lad, teaching me to drive one of his teams. In the wagon he drove himself he was hauling the first piano that came to Utah. Your grandfather and father were very kind to me, and for long years I have sought for some of that family.'" Aunt Ruth said that Mr. Ursenbach paid his wages in gold coin.

Utah's Dixie began to be settled in the early 1860's and many of the saints were called to help colonize that area. Whether Grandpa was called or just found his way to Dixie isn't known but according to church records, in the fall of 1863 he was living in Harrisburg and was made branch clerk of the Harrisburg Branch of the Washington Ward.

He was living with the William Leany family. Just how or when they became acquainted we don't know. But here was a young man in his early twenties in a new country, with none of his family with him. He was probably given a home by the Leany's in exchange for his help with their work. The Leany's had been called to Southern Utah to help with the cotton industry, I imagine, because they were from the south and probably had some knowledge of cotton growing and manufacturing. If young William Stirling was familiar with weaving, as we do know some of his ancestors from Forfar were weavers and weaving was very common occupation in Forfar, he may have been called to help with the cotton industry. At any rate he was living with the Leany family. The oldest daughter of the Leany's was Sarah Ann. She and William were married on the 5th of February, 1865 in Harrisburg. They later went to Salt Lake City to the Endowment House and were sealed in 1868. Now we need to know of the "roots" of Sarah Ann.

From a short history written by Sarah Ann's father, William, we know the Leany's came from Ireland. John and Margaret Means and John's father, Joseph, were the first to come. They settled in Pennsylvania previous to 1758. John served one year under General Braddock and under General Washington in the United States Army and was at what is known as Braddock's Defeat. He also volunteered and served three years under General Washington in the American Revolutionary War. He was at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina and was with General Nathaniel H. Green at the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina. He was also with Washington at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. We can all be proud that one of our ancestors fought to gain the independence and freedom of our country. After the war, the family moved to South Carolina because they thought the warm climate would be better for their health.

Culbert Means, son of John, moved to Kentucky and assisted in the layout of Franklin City, the new county seat of Simpson County. In 1812, he married Margaret Cook there.

William and his twin brother, sons of Culbert Means and Margaret Cook, were born in Franklin. After they joined the church, they went to Missouri for a few years and endured with the saints many trials because of the mobs and enemies of the church. Later they went to Nauvoo and were with the Saints until they were driven from that city. William Leany married Elizabeth Searce in Nauvoo. He worked as a carpenter on the Nauvoo Temple and received his endowments in that temple. They left Nauvoo in May 1846. Grandma Stirling, Sarah Ann Leany, was born 18 August 1846 at Cutler's Park, which was near Winter Quarters. They arrived in Salt Lake in September 1847. In 1851, they went to Southern Utah where her father, William Leany, had been called to help settle. They first went to Parowan where they lived for eleven years; then in 1861 they were called to go to the Dixie Country or the Cotton Mission. Here they lived the rest of their lives and were buried in the little Harrisburg Cemetery.

William and Sarah Ann Stirling's first home was in Harrisburg. Aunt Ruth said: "Sometime after they were married, William, along with others, was called to go to Long Valley in Kane County to help put down the Indian attacks. William and Sarah Ann built a home in Glendale and planted an orchard. Their first child,

William Jr., was born in Glendale February 16, 1866. But the trouble with the Indians became so serious that the people had to abandon the settlements and move back to their towns in Southern Utah, where there was better protection. Sarah Ann was glad to be near her family in Harrisburg."

A second son, Thomas, was born in Harrisburg May 26, 1868. The other twelve children were born after they moved to Leeds. They are: Hyrum, born November 25, 1869; Ann Elizabeth, September 9, 1871; Adelbert, January 25, 1873; Helen May, 1 Oct. 1874; Sarah Elinor, 25 Feb. 1876; Jessie Amelia, Nov. 26, 1877; Alice, November 18, 1879; Ida, December 28, 1881; Ruth, October 15, 1883; David, July 23, 1885; Isabell, January 30, 1888; and Joseph, Nov. 15, 1889.

William and Sarah Ann's first home in Leeds was on the lot where the George Olsen home is. In 1876, William built a brick home across the street and his father and mother, Thomas and Elizabeth, who had come from Scotland in 1868 and had been living in Salt Lake, came to live in Leeds and they lived in the old home. My father told me that Thomas worked as a gardener in Salt Lake and was paid \$1,000 a year for his work. When they came to Leeds, Silver Reef was a booming mining town and Thomas and Elizabeth kept boarders who slept in the barn. Dad said he remembered how his Grandmother would say in her Scottish accent, "All ye that want muck come in the house and get it, those that don't can go on the stack, for there will be no meat in the house tonight." Thomas died August 9, 1876 and is buried in the Leeds Cemetery. Elizabeth went back to Salt Lake to be near her daughters up there. She died October 5, 1895.

Their brick home was built by people by the name of Worthen from St. George. It was built in 1876. Dad told me that the bricks were made from clay from the Connally Field. They were fired over there. He said the home cost \$4,000. Ethyl McMullin George, who grew up across the street from the old home, told me that Grandpa got the money to build the home from being on the payroll of the Christy Mill at Silver Reef. How this came about is told by Etta McMullin Mariger, a cousin of my father, in her book, Saga of Three Towns.

"One bleak winter morning while Silver Reef was in its prime, William Stirling had an errand up there, and he started out on horseback to discharge it. His way led past the Christy Mill, where all was frenzy and consternation. The boilers were under full fire with no supply of running water, for the mill stream was completely frozen up. Without a supply of water, an explosion was inevitable. Something must be done. William Stirling happened to be the chief executive of the Leeds Water Company. But knowing the man, I should say that that would not matter much. What did matter was the danger the mill was in, and if he could act quickly enough to avert an explosion."

"With all the speed his horse had, he raced to the spot where the mill stream was diverted from our Leeds Canal. Hurriedly, he threw open the head gate to a large flow of water, and it reached the mill in time to stave off the disaster. As a gesture of gratitude, William Stirling's name was placed on the company payroll for one year."

Ethyl also told me she remembered when they had a house warming party when the home was finished. Etta McMullin Mariger told me that Grandfather "loved things comfortable, pleasant, and restful." Libby Leany Cox told me that "he was proud of his good home and his large family."

I have always loved this home also. I was born and grew up in it. I don't know what the arrangement there was of ownership for the home after Grandpa died. My mother said that the girls who were living at home got the home and the boys got the farm. Whether the children who were married received a portion I don't know. I do remember that Dad paid Aunt Elinor, Aunt Ruth, and Aunt Lib for their share of the home. Mom says that he paid Aunt Alice for something. She doesn't remember whether it was for the home or something else. One of my memories of it are the three fireplaces that warmed us. If you were facing the fire, your front would get too warm, while your back would be cold. So you turned around and let your back warm up while your front would cool off. Dad had two of them fixed so they would warm up the rooms better and they are still used to help heat the home.

I wonder if my Dad and his brothers and sisters ever slid down the stair banister like we used to do? Or if he was ever frightened of the "dark room" at the top of the stairs? Or if they ever made their bed out on "the deck" in the summertime? Or if the girls ever used to play "dress up" upstairs like we did? The high ceilings made the home a little cooler in the summertime, but they also made the home hard to heat in the winter. How often I have wished that I had a "cellar" for storage like the old home has. After Dad died, I used to think, "I don't want the old home to ever be owned by someone outside of the family." I was so happy when my brother Eldon and his wife Louise decided to buy it. He has done quite a bit to modernize it and fix it up. I know he has done it with love and care for the home. I hope it will always be owned and lived in by a Stirling family. I believe Grandpa would like that. The home has now been designated as a Utah Historic Site. A Plaque reads: "Stirling Home, Built 1876 of Red Brick by Samuel Worthen and sons for William Stirling, one of the first settlers of Leeds. Fine example of 'Dixie Dormers' unique to Southern Utah. Marker placed 1973 by Mrs. David Stirling and family."

I am sure it must have been a very busy household with 14 children. I wrote to Etta before she passed away and asked her to tell me about Grandma and Grandpa. This is what she said of Grandma: "Your Grandmother was my mother's older sister. Always dressed in what you could call gray Washington factory wool dresses, plain button waist (front), a skirt and waist sewed together for her winter everyday dresses. And a gray or somber colored cotton dress for summer. I think she was not quite as tall as my mother, was more Belle's type, though not as plump as Belle. She showed a lot of patience with kids - sometimes could order us out from under her feet with some force. In fact, I think of her as plain and straight forward in her speech, plain in her manner--quiet, could be dignified. The fact that she was a Relief Society President proves that she had leadership qualities, though very direct and unostentatious about it. She was not a tease as mother was, and mother thought she was too sensitive in many ways. She had a quiet commanding dignity much as Grandmother had. I would say she was a very practical, good housekeeper, and came up to your Grandfather's standards in know-how and general abilities."

Grandmother was the third Relief Society president of the Leeds Ward. In the book Relief Society Memories of St. George Stake, it says she was president from 1897 to February 7, 1901. (It must have been 1900 because she died in October 1900 and the book says she was released because of illness.) It also says "quilt making and making of rag carpets were the main activities along about this time. Part of the money obtained by these articles was applied on the purchase of grain stored in church granaries. Some of the money went to charity."

I am sure that the death of Hyrum, June 2, 1883, was a hard thing for them. It would have been about four months before Aunt Ruth was born. He was 13 years old. My father told me that Hyrum was taking a load of hay to the river mill. The horses bolted and he fell off the wagon and was run over.

In August 1895, Adelbert, who was 22 years old, died of consumption. Libby Cox told me that Helen May took care of him during his illness because Grandma was so busy with other things. Then when Helen May contracted the disease, Grandma felt so bad she took care of her constantly until May died May 9, 1899. She was 25 years old. Grandma then acquired the disease and died October 24, 1900. These must have been hard years and busy years. Thomas was married in June 1899, William in December of the same year. Grandpa went back to Scotland on a mission leaving November 1898 and returned May 1900, just about five months before Grandma died. This was also the time when Grandma was President of the Relief Society. So this shows the obedience of both Grandpa and Grandma to the calls that came to them from the church leaders. It would also indicate that the family was close and the older ones must have helped in the care of younger children. Uncle Joe, the youngest, would only have been 11 years old when Grandmother died. Jessie Amelia died March 5, 1902 and if I remember right, Dad told me she also died of consumption.

Just one incident that shows something of the character of Grandma. Ethyl McMullin George told me that Grandma didn't show her feelings easily. To illustrate, she remembers one time when she was at home when one of the older boys returned home after being gone for several days, had been up north for a load of freight. When he came in the house, Grandma hardly stopped what she was doing and just said hello like he had been out for a few hours. Ethyl thought this was strange.

I believe that Grandma must have loved flowers. There are still growing some things she planted. The white rose bush on the front lawn, which we always called the "Martha Washington" bush she planted. It has brightened that spot for at least 78 years and how long before that I don't know. She also planted a little pink climbing rose at the south end of the porch. It was moved to a trellis by the back door probably when the front porch was torn down and made smaller. As I have always understood, she also planted the wisteria. When I was a child, it was more like a tree than a vine, as it is now, and its huge bunches of white blossoms hanging from the top of the porch were a sight to behold. When it was in bloom, people traveling the highway, passing the home, would slow down or stop just to look at it. When I was in high school, I remember seeing a movie about "trees in Utah." They had a picture of our home when the Wisteria was in bloom and said it was the only white wisteria in the state of Utah. Thirty or forty years ago the original tree died because of the cold winter we had, but the vine did come up from the root, but the blossoms are purple and not nearly as big.

To quote again from Etta's letter, she said, "Your Grandfather was one who did everything in a big way, and, if he was the one in authority, often being very amusing in it. He was a born host and could lay the red carpet more naturally than anyone else I ever saw. He was a fine singer, and often was the whole choir in church. At parties In Leeds and Washington he often sang and danced. Some songs that he sang in the Scotch dialect were, "Mither, Mend Me Ould Breeks," "When I Was Twenty One," "Annie Laurie," "Coming Thru the Rye," and "Flow Gently Sweet Afton." Was strong in his likes and dislikes. but with sense to use diplomacy. He was a 'past master' at putting his best foot forward in circumstances calling for the action, on the street or in public or private. He was rich in initiative - very jovial and had an Intuitive personality, if he had no particular excuse for doing anything he could soon invent one if necessary. And a quick person at seeing the points in a situation, advantageous or otherwise. I have heard him say you need to be a bit canny."

In a letter from Libby Leany Cox she said, "Your Grandfather Stirling was always Uncle Wally to us. In fact, I think I never heard his name spoken as William until after he died. He was an outstanding man, a leader and a good organizer. Stood tall and straight; he was bigger than your father. In his later years, he was lame. I think he broke his leg. I don't remember whether It was before his mission to Scotland or after, probably after. I remember how fine he looked in his tall black hat and his long black missionary coat, and it doesn't seem that he carried a cane then."

I have in my possession a notebook in which Aunt Ruth wrote some things about Grandpa. My father obtained it after Aunt Ruth died, I am glad for the things she wrote about her father. She tells of some of the history of him coming to Utah and Southern Utah that I have written about. The things she writes about his character and personality are important so I think so will quote it as she wrote it. "A characteristic of his was being able to see what could be profitably done and being able to find the way of getting it done. It was he who took the lead in getting a schoolhouse for Leeds. Up to this time, school had been held in different buildings: the church, a store building, the tithing office and Relief Society Building. Edward H. Snow, a good friend of his and stake president and county school superintendent in speaking at a meeting In Leeds on the business of the school building said, 'There are young men here (some In the meeting) who ought to be ashamed, who are opposed to the building of a schoolhouse, afraid of the cost, letting this old man take the responsibility of seeing that the building is made possible.'"

He loved singing and speaking; and entertained by singing and speaking Scotch songs and poems. This love of such entertainment was what led him to build a dance and opera hall in Leeds. For this he used a building moved down from Silver Reef at the time that camp closed down. In this building the people of Leeds had the opportunity of seeing and hearing good plays and singing by artists traveling through, such as John S. Lindsey, Willard Anderlin, Maude May Babcock, Arvilla Clark and others."

I remember the foundation and Dart of the frame building of the "Old Hall" that we used to play around when I was a child. I think it was finally torn down when Reed Fuller bought that part of the lot and built his home.

To go on with what Aunt Ruth wrote: "He followed farming as a means of making a living. He owned farming land and was successful as a farmer, raising good and abundant crops. A neighbor who had a good opinion of his judgment in farming said, 'I'll watch Brother Stirling and when he cuts his hay, we'll cut ours.' Though successful as a farmer he never made a fortune at it. He was too generous with what he had. He gave much away that he received nothing for. People traveling through Leeds looking for a place to sleep or for a meal were always taken in. He loved company and in his home church people as well as others were frequently entertained in crowds. Later his home was a stopping place for drummers (traveling salesmen) and others who were paying guests."

"That great teacher Karl G. Maeser was passing through Leeds and was expecting a place would be provided there for his entertainment. There were no arrangements for anyone to keep him and he was at a loss to know what to do. He had stopped in the street near the Stirling home and was sitting there in his buggy when who would see him but William Stirling who went out and spoke to him, found out the trouble and asked him into his home to stay. This was a sample of the thing he loved to do."

"He liked good horses and always had several in a large stable of his own as well as others belonging to travelers and stage drivers. Two good mares that he thought much of were Maude and Doll. They gave him years of faithful service as well as valuable colts."

I am glad we have this little bit about Grandpa, written by one of his children and only wished she had written something about Grandma too.

My father, David Stirling, told me that besides farming and stock raising, that Grandpa cut wood on contract for the Silver Reef. He planted a grove of trees for this purpose. Besides furnishing wood, "the Grove" as it was called, was a place where the town's people met for holiday picnics, especially on May Day when they braided the May Pole and had games. Jessie Scott Redmond told me she remembers going there for picnics.

What about Grandpa's family. What do we know about them? Not very much. As I mentioned earlier his mother and father came to America, according to the European Emigration Card Index, June 24, 1886 on the ship "Constitution." His sisters, Grace who would have been 15 years old and Hannah who was 13, came with them. Grace married George William Bosly. Hannah married Pete McKelvery who came to the Silver Reef with William Tecumseh Barbee to work getting the mines started. We know nothing of either of them other than this.

Jessie, who came to America when Grandpa did, married John Pack. They lived in Woods Cross and raised a family of seven children. She died 24 December 1925. The oldest sister, Ann, married David Whyte in Scotland in 1863. Five of their six children were born in Forfar but the last one was born in Salt Lake. The last child born in Scotland was born in 1873 and the one born in Salt Lake was born in 1875. So they came to America sometime between June 1873 and October 1875. They raised their family in Salt Lake. She died January 7, 1920. I know my father kept in touch with some of the family for many years.

Grandpa William Stirling died November 24, 1915, of cancer. He was 74 years old. This was six years before I was born. I wish I had known him; I am sure I would have loved him. There are a few of his grandchildren who remember a little about him. They have written for me some things they remember.

Alta Stirling Wicks writes, "Grandpa, as I remember was about as tall as your father, but heavier, a good sized man with blue eyes, bald on top with gray hair around the head. He had a goatee, a small mustache coming to a point. He was a kind man. We children all liked him. I was 13 when he passed away, but these are things I like to think about. When I was near nine or ten, he had me ride the horse while he put the hay up in the barn. You may know all about this, having made your home in that old house, which I loved. Anyway, there was a fork with four prongs which opened and closed. It was fastened to a heavy rope which was fastened to a pulley. The hay had been dumped near the barn. I was on the horse with a rope (or something). Grandpa would sock this fork into the pile of hay then tell me to move out a certain distance, he would shout to me when he wanted me to stop. While I was walking the horse away, this fork

full of hay was being lifted up and into the barn and dropped where he wanted. Then Grandpa would call to me to stop and return for another fork-load of hay. As I think of it now, there must have been someone in the barn placing the hay where they wanted it. This was a very special time for me.

"As children we would take a bucket over to Grandpa's and he would give us fresh fruit: peaches, grapes, plums, and pears. They had so much of it." Alta also said that her mother spent a week or two at the St. George Temple after her father died. Alta says she thinks it was names that Grandpa brought back with him when he was in Scotland on his mission. A friend of her mother's was helping her. "One day she had been doing baptisms when she saw Grandpa Stirling watching her. He was pleased. Of course he and my father were both dead. They died just a month apart."

"Grandpa was known as Pappy Stirling. He had a definite Scottish brogue. He would say, 'Yis, Yis, be dim and suz I ta im (him) and e ta me.' At my father's funeral, Grandpa was sitting about four or five rows behind us in the congregation. After the speakers on the stand finished talking, Grandpa asked if he could say a few words. Then he stood where he was and paid tribute to his oldest son, my father. This has always been a sweet memory to me."

Lucile Stirling Biddle, another of Uncle Will's daughters writes, "This I remember about Grandpa. Aunt Ruth had a flower garden around a pear tree, it was about even with the front of the house on the lane side and it must have been a summer pear. The fruit was small and sweet. It was off limits for us children. I can appreciate Aunt Ruth not wanting us to be tramping around in her flower bed. Of course, we wanted some. It may have happened other times, but I remember this once. Aunt Ruth was standing near the house watching unhappily as Vera and I picked up and maybe knocked down fruit from the pear tree for Grandpa was standing by with his cane and he had said, 'Let the lassies have some pears.' You may have heard this too. He often lost his spectacles and had the entire family looking for them. Eventually someone looked at him and saw them on his forehead where he had pushed them."

Jessie Scott Redmond, one of Aunt Elinor's daughters writes, "I was only 3 1/2 when he died so really can't remember him much. I recall how much he enjoyed cornmeal mush for breakfast, with a big lump of butter melting on it before he added cream. And for supper it was bread and hot milk with pepper and a bit of butter. I seem to remember him mostly at the table sitting at the head, with his arms on the arms of the chair and his long grey beard, which he would wipe as he ate."

VeRue Tullis Sandstrom told me that she remembers when they came down from New Castle in the summer going with Grandpa and other children over to hoe weeds in the vegetable garden. She also remembers being there on the 4th of July and the front of the house was decorated with flags and bunting.

Grandpa operated a store in Leeds. I don't know when or for how long it was in operation. It was just below the family home. When Uncle Joe got married in 1921, they moved the building to his property out toward the fields. It was their home until sometime in the 1940's or 50's when they built a nice brick home in town. Carlyle, one of Uncle Joe's sons, said his father and mother told the children how, when they got ready to move the building, they got all the teams of horses in town and pulled the building out to where it is still standing. Harold, another son, said he remembers having the job of painting the house and recalls that above the front door there was some kind of emblem, possibly an eagle, and the word "Store." There was other writing that he couldn't read because it had faded.

Carlyle also says that someone in St. George told him that when they were building the St. George Temple, Grandpa had the assignment to see that lumber was there for use on a certain day. Someone was wondering if the lumber would be there on time and if they should have a crew there to work. Another person who knew Grandpa said, in substance, "If William Stirling is responsible to have the lumber here-- it will be here. Have the men ready to work." What a great tribute to him, to be known as a man of his word.

Clair Stirling told me that when he was bishop in Leeds, he was in Salt Lake and met President David O. McKay. When President McKay learned his name was Stirling and that he was from Leeds, he asked if

he was any relation to William Stirling. Clair told him that William Stirling was his Grandfather. President McKay then told him that he had walked the streets of Edinburgh with Grandpa when he was there on his first mission. This was the time when Grandpa was there on his mission.

MEMORIES OF WILLIAM STIRLING, From: Alice Stirling Singleton by Edith Singleton Granato

Alice Stirling Singleton was the ninth child of William and Sarah Ann Leary Stirling. She was a very special person. Not only was she blessed with a keen Intellect, who was also highly perceptive to the emotional and physical needs of her acquaintances of all ages. She had a fantastic approach to the reality of life and its many challenges. Her ability to cope with all situations came from a basic inner security, a fantastic sense of humor and a love of all that life offered. Her outstanding wit and absolute candor were unmatched by any other person I have ever known. I knew and loved this lady well because she was my mother.

In recent years, as I have read and heard accounts of the Stirling family home life, I feel that my mother's character and personality were molded by the man she lovingly referred to as "Pappy." At times I reflect on what a privilege it would have been to have loved and laughed with this fine man.

Alice did not dwell on the past, but occasionally in fond recollection she would recount an interesting tidbit from the days of her young womanhood. It is no secret that in the early days of Leeds, as well as other southern Utah communities, wine making was a common practice. By some, a share of the product was paid to the church as tithing on a regular basis. This practice was discontinued only when the product began to lack uniformity and became of doubtful quality.

William Stirling was one of these early wine makers. His cellar excelled in size and in quality beyond most others in the region. In this area, as in all others, Grandfather worked hard to produce an excellent product. On occasion and with good intent, he would most willingly sample the fruits of his labor . . . always with an eye toward quality control. He would gladly share his triumph with a friend, but if none were available, he alone would be responsible for the maintenance of quality. The quality was always such that the libation would perform the function for which the fermented grape is noted.

It was on these special occasions that Alice was assigned what she considered the privilege of watching her beloved "Pappy." These were never unhappy times for her and she felt no fear of embarrassment. Through these times she became especially close to her father and they became some of her fondest memories of her growing-up years. This is a great tribute to the basic character and personality of William Stirling.

As the effects of the wine would lift from William the burden of earthly cares, he would become totally uninhibited. His true nature was one of love, laughter, and happiness. This is what would show through when he was under the influence of his wine.

Mother would often recall with happy nostalgia the sight of Pappy laughing and singing as he took off down the lane at a full gallop. In her mind, he would run off toward the field with the speed of a deer or wild stallion. At these times it took extreme effort for Alice to keep up with him in an effort to keep him from breaking a leg or otherwise harming himself.

At the end of their run, they would sit upon the ground as William recited lengthy poems and sang the songs which he so dearly loved. He had a deep empathy with the Scottish poet Robert Burns and could quote from memory long passages from Mr. Burns many works. Many of these poems have become familiar Scottish songs. Two of Grandfather's favorites were "Coming Through the Rye" and "John Anderson, My Jo."

I would bet that many a descendent of William Stirling has been deeply influenced by his literary tastes as they recall parents and grandparents singing such favorites as "Danny Boy," "Auld Lang Syne," "Annie Laurie," "Lochloman," and "Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair."

As heirs to the rich heritage this good man left us, we could honor his memory and bring a twinkle to his eye, if we strived to maintain a straightforward attitude and a humorous approach to the many situations we encounter in our mortal lives. By doing so, we could gain a closer kinship with Grandfather Stirling and be a living example of one of his favorite verses from another Robert Burns poem.

"O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
And foolish notion:
What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
And ev'n devotion."

Obituaries of Grandpa and Grandma Stirling as reported in the Deseret News.

Deseret News Daily-Film #026 948-pt. 50 beginning date Sept. 1900.

Leeds

One Week of Rain

A seven year phenomena --- Death of Mrs. Sarah A. Stirling --Special correspondence

Leeds, Washington County, Nov. 24 - A solid week's rain in most parts of Utah is nothing of which to make a news item, but in this place where such a thing happens only once in seven or more years, it is, after the protracted drouth, something of a sensation of which we take pleasure in making the world duly acquainted.

News - Nov. 28, 1900 pg. 6

Death of Sarah Ann Stirling

Mrs. Sarah A. Stirling, the president of the Relief Society of this ward, died October 24th, and at the funeral on the following day, Bishop Murdock of Beaver and Elder Spilsbury of Toquer, and other speakers, dilated upon the faithful and useful character of the deceased.

Deseret News Daily - Film 026, 999 pt. 101

Beginning date Oct. 1915 News Dec. 22, 1915 pg. 12

Leeds

Obituary

Special Correspondence

Leeds Dec. 20, William Stirling who died Nov. 24, was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bell Stirling. He was born in Scotland, Aug. 31, 1841. He embraced the gospel in his native land and left there with his sister Jessie when he was 21 years old to come to Utah. He arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1862 driving an ox team across the plains. That same fall he came to Dixie, arriving here in December. In February 1865 he married Sarah Ann Leany. He came to Leeds in the winter of and had since resided here. His wife died 15 years ago. In 1898 he filled a mission to his native land. He is survived by Thomas, Elizabeth Ann, Alice, Ruth, Joseph, and Bishop David Stirling of Leeds, Mrs. Elinor Scott of Modena, Mrs. Ida Tullis of New Castle,

Mrs. Bell Jolley of Leeds, and two sisters. He was an important factor in the pioneering and building up of Dixie and was always active in church and civic affairs.

It has been a satisfying experience to have gathered the bits and pieces of information about Grandpa and Grandma. I feel like I know them much better than I did before. I know many of you have heard from your parents some of the information I have written about, but I feel good about having something written down so our children and our children's children can know about them too. I appreciate all those who have given me information and express my thanks to them.

Grandma and Grandpa have been gone for many years now. Their children have all joined them in the spirit world, I hope you are as proud of the heritage they have left us as I am. They had many challenges in their lives, different than the ones we face now. But I hope we, their descendants, will be as courageous and faithful in our stewardship as they were in theirs. I am proud to bear the Stirling name.

To William and Sarah Ann Stirling were born 14 children. 10 of them married and 9 have families. 4 died without being married.

Following is a record of the families.

(1) William Jr. Married Susann Sariah Harris.

To them were born 7 children.

Son: Adelbert William married Mary Germima Savage.
Daughter: Alta Harris married (1) Glen William Emmett (2) Carlyle Wicks.
Daughter: Zelpha (stillborn)
Daughter: Veria married David Gavin Wood.
Daughter: Luceil married Ralph Girtis Biddle.
Daughter: Leona married (1) Ernest Lee Hall (2) Mitchell Corum.
Son: Hyrum Legrand married Mary Siecert.

(2) Thomas married Harriet Centennial McMullin.

To them were born 6 children.

Son: Thomas Grundy married (1) Katherine Lynch (2) Lucille Stewart.
Son: Rex married Thelma Workman.
Daughter: Fay.
Son: Glen.
Son: Clair married Helen Webb.
Daughter: Grace married William "S" (Dub) Leigh ,

(3) Hyrum killed when 13 years old.

(4) Ann Elizabeth (Lib or Libby) married Joseph H. Lee had no children.

(5) Adelbert died when 21 years old.

(6) Helen May died when 24 years old.

(7) Sarah Elinor married Wilson Lenoir Scott.

To them were born 3 children.

Daughter: Jessie married Paul Daniel Redmond.

Daughter: Dixie Mae married Fred Burt Harris.

Son: Wilbur Wilson married Gloria Jean Jones.

(8) Jessie Amelia died when 24 years old.

(9) Alice married Francis Hercules Singleton.

To them were born 4 children.

Son: Francis Stirling died day after birth.

Daughter: Edith married Frank Granato.

Daughter: Beulah married Horace Shelton Patterson.

Son: James Leanord.

(10) Ida married John Hardman Tullis.

To them were born 7 children.

Son: Elvon Stirling married Mildred Farnsworth.

Daughter: VeRue married Alonzo Sandstorm.

Son: Jessie Jerome married (1) Elaine Halton (2) Barbara May

Son: William Eccles died a few months after birth.

Son: David Anthon married Mary Leavitt.

Son: Jean Scott.

Son: John Carroll married Shirley Jane Hall.

(11) Ruth married George Edward Porter. 1 adopted son.

Son: Don E. Porter married Elizabeth Maxine Lois Kenedy.

(12) David married Annie Ethel Isom.

To them were born 9 children.

Daughter: Charlene married Walter Leo Knell.

Son: Thomas Eldon married Louise Fluckiger.

Daughter: Florence married David F. Adams.

Daughter: Katherine married Russell A. Christensen.

Daughter: Ilene (twin) married Foy A. Seegmiller

Daughter: Elaine (twin) married Nyron Sorensen.

Son: David Leslie died when 1 1/2 years old.

Son: William Merrill married Katherine Harvey.

Son: Culbert Means married Sharon Leah Branham.

(13) Isabell (Belle) married Ammon Jolley.

To them were born 9 children.

Son: Merlin Lloyd married (1) Velma Spendlove.

Son: Vernon William.

Daughter: Gwen married (1) Richard George Ruddy (2)____Kite.

Daughter: Merle (Myrle) married (1) Douglas A. Olsen (2) Joseph C. Sulser.

Daughter: Lena married Vandora (Duke) Mayo.

Son: Ammon Doyle married Eunice

Son: Guy Henry married

Son: Keith Stirling died when he was 5 years old.

Son: Brose Garth married Pauline Christiam.

(14) Joseph married Margurite McMullin.

To them were born 3 sons. They also raised a son of Margurite's,
Rosco McMullin

Son: Harold Joseph married Lucille Reina.

Son: Stanford David married Gladys Zoccolillo.

Son: Herman Carlyle married Geraldine Hafen.

St. George

January 9, 1373

Given by William Gaunt Perkins

A Patriarchal Blessing on the head of William Stirling. Son of Thomas and, Elizabeth Stirling. Born in Forfar, Forforshire, Scotland August 31, 1841.

William I place my hands upon your head and seal upon you a Patriarchal Blessing. Your lineage is of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim, and you will become great and powerful in the Holy Priesthood. Your Father is very mindful of you. He has given his angels charge of you for the honesty and integrity of thy heart. You will be blessed in all your labors. You will accomplish a great work In the Kingdom of God. You will be called and set apart to preach the gospel unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel, even the seed of Joseph. You will hunt them out of the dens and caves of the earth. You will preach unto them the fullness of the gospel. You will have great power of speech and bring them into the true fold of Christ. They will fall down at your feet to worship you. You command them to arise and say unto them worship God the Eternal Father who has made the heavens and the earth the seas and the fountains of living water. Then you will see a nation of them born in a day and some of them will change as white as snow, and such shouts of praise to God and the Lamb you never witnessed before. You will ordain their Chiefs. They will go with you from place to place and teach the gospel to their brethren. You will gather up a host of their warriors and go with them to the Center Stake. You will slay everything that opposes you. There you will give an account of your stewardship. They will say unto you well done good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, thou shalt be made ruler over many things.

They will say unto you be ye also ready with your warriors and go where you are called to defend the Kingdom of God. For you and your men have to avenge the blood of the Prophet and Patriarch. And through your prudence and faithfulness you shall prevail over your enemies. And you shall return with shouts and praises to God and the Lamb.

You will have an inheritance in Zion. You will assist in building that holy temple. You will be at the dedication of that house. There you will see Jesus your Redeemer in the fullness of his glory. There you will do a great work for yourself and your dead. It will be common with you to see the graves open and the dead come forth. You will witness the return of the ten tribes with John the Beloved the Apostle at their head.

You will have many wives and a large posterity and they will work with you through the thousand years reign upon the earth. You will be at the great feast, even the marriage supper of the Lamb, and sit down and partake of its bounties. There you will see your Redeemer again. There you will go through the change that will be equivalent unto death.

I seal all these blessings upon your head and seal you up to eternal life and seal upon your head a crown of Celestial G1ory. This I do in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, Amen.